

The Rush County Council met in regular session on Tuesday, February 24th, 2010 at 8:00 a.m. with Norman Winkler, Chairman, John Pavey, Gerald Mohr, Warren Norris, Bruce Levi, Kevin Spilman, Jerry Kent, Leigh Morning, Attorney, and Deborah Adams, Auditor in attendance.

Chairman, Norman Winkler called the meeting to order. Minutes of the January 13th, 2010 meeting were approved on a motion by John Pavey, seconded by Warren Norris. Motion carried.

HEALTH

Dr. Craig Fenimore, O.D., Health Board Chairman, outlined the 2010 financial proposal for the health department to the council members.

The council informed Dr. Fenimore, along with Dr. Davis Ellis, Health Department Officer, that they were ok with the health department running with a negative balance and giving a loan later in the year. Discussion was held so as how not to further hurt the health dept tax rate for 2011.

The Local Health Maintenance (Tobacco) Fund #107 will be utilized in 2010 to continue providing Home Health Care services and Environmental services. Julie Newhouse, Health Board attorney, shared liability concerns for the position of the Environmental Services position if this were to be a contracted person. Newhouse and County Attorney Leigh Morning will discuss the situation further. Dr. Ellis informed the council that state law requires the Environmental Services position to be filled. Dr. Fenimore asked for assurance in the form of a letter from the council that the Environmental Services position would be returned to the health budget in 2011. John Pavey informed Dr. Fenimore and Dr. Ellis that the intent of the council is to have an Environmental Services position and for the health department to place it into their budget. Pavey continued to say that whether it is two (2) persons or one (1) person remains to be seen for 2011.

The council approved the additional appropriation of \$22,186.00 for the Health Maintenance Tobacco Supplement Fund #107 on a motion from Jerry Kent. John Pavey seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Health Maintenance Tobacco Supplement Fund transfers was approved:

- \$290.00 from #107-1000-4-5 (office supplies) to #107-1000-3-10 (P/T Environmentalist) on a motion from John Pavey, seconded by Jerry Kent. Motion carried.
- \$346.00 from #107-1000-4-4 (sprayer) to #107-1000-3-10 (P/T Environmentalist) on a motion from Gerald Mohr, seconded by Kevin Spilman. Motion carried.

- \$16,247.00 From #107-1000-2-2 (Supplies) to #107-1000-3-10 (P/T Environmentalist) on a motion from John Pavey, seconded by Kevin Spilman
- \$931.00 From #107-1000-3-7 (Office Uniform) to #107-1000-3-10 (P/T Environmentalist) on a motion from Warren Norris, seconded by Jerry Kent

SOLID WASTE

Carole Yeend, Solid Waste Director, appeared before the council asking for a \$50,000 operating loan. Deborah Adams informed the council after being asked that no paperwork had been prepared due to her having no prior knowledge of the loan request.

Adams did encourage Yeend to utilize the ability of submitting letters of advance draws to both the auditor and the treasurer. Adams explained that the thirty day advance draw notice would allow the opportunity for at least two advance tax draws prior to May 10th. Yeend replied that she was aware of the availability of advance draws.

The council informed Yeend that they will look at the possibility of giving a loan from the Cumulative Capital Development Fund #19 during their April meeting.

BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB

Chet Walker, Boys and Girls Club Director, reported that a 200 plus acre farm donated to the Club in 1997 by the Margaret Wilker Remainder Trust will be auctioned Tuesday, March 2nd.

This donation was all a part of the round two match from the Lilly Endowment for the Rush County Community Foundation. Walker noted that the sale proceeds will go into the Boys and Girls Club Fund of the Community Foundation of which the club will not see benefits for three (3) years.

Jerry Kent asked Walker to keep in mind that the budget crunches facing the county. The county may be forced to eliminate or reduce funding some or all programs.

HIGHWAY

Jerry Sitton, Highway Superintendent, reported back to the council from his January discussion regarding the possibility of increasing Cum Bridge tax, to assist with the county bridge replacement, Sur and Wheel tax can also be used to assist with road maintenance.

Sitton reported that Cum Bridge is inside the maximum levy and any rate increase will affect the General Fund rate. The Cum Cap Dev Fund is outside the maximum levy and could be increased 2 cents, raise the same necessary monies, and would not affect the General Fund rate. Leigh Morning will research and forward to the council the rate increase adoption deadline for Cum Cap Dev Fund.

Sitton reported that the snow removal cost over the past three (3) weeks was approximately \$354,000.00. The ground and the roads were soft under the snow causing

damage. Sitton continued by reporting that the county needs to be prepared to close roads within the next two to three (2-3) years due to bridges needing replaced and there being a lack of funding.

Sitton finished with reporting that July 1st is the deadline to adopting Sur and Wheel tax.

L.O.I.T.

Gary Malone and Jason Semler of H. J. Umbaugh & Associates appeared before the council at their request to discuss possible revenue options for the county.

Malone discussed the three (3) options available to counties under L.O.I.T.

- A. Levy Growth Replacement
- B. Levy Replacement
- C. Public Safety

Malone reported that income taxes are volatile and will probably be down for 2011. The adoption period for L.O.I.T. is from April 1st until July 31st. Malone discussed various possible options.

Malone informed the council that the county EDIT and CAGIT rate are currently already maxed to their capacity. Malone noted that the Inventory Reduction tax does not provide any economic benefit to the county. The reductions and credits would be county wide and would not affect any bond issue for the City.

The Council hired Umbaugh to do some calculations on various ranges of houses with the inventory replacement credit reduced, the CAGIT staying at the maximum, and LOIT options. Malone and Semler will return with their report to their April 14th council meeting. The council asked Deborah Adams to contact and invite only the City of Rushville Council Board President, Carthage Town Board President, and Glenwood Town Board President for the information session.

TREASURER

Mary Ann Beard, Treasurer, provided the council with her Annual Board of Finance Report that was presented to the Commissioners in January. Beard reported:

- Investments for the county are down.
- Fund reports continue to reflect that the county is spending more than we are taking in.
- People are still trying to pay their property taxes
- The 10% unemployment has now hit Rush County and the tax payers are making appointments to work out agreements towards paying their taxes.

PLAT BOOK FUND

Deborah Adams, Auditor, received approval on amending Ordinance 1998-3 that will allow the authorization to collect \$5.00 for the legal description of each parcel contained in a deed that the Auditor makes a real property endorsement. Adams noted that she will utilize the

accumulated monies of the Plat Book fund #110 to help offset a portion the Auditor's plat book expenses. Jerry Kent made the motion to amend the ordinance. Gerald Mohr seconded the motion. Motion carried. Adams will advertise the ordinance and it will become effective April 1st, 2010.

Copy of Ordinance available in Auditor's Office

G.I.S.ELECTRONIC MAP GENERATION FUND

Deborah Adams, Auditor, received approval to amend Ordinance 2005-3 for the charges of a fee for providing a copy of an electronic map. Jerry Kent made the motion to approve the amended ordinance. John Pavey seconded the motion. Motion carried. Adams reported that she will use the accumulated monies from the GIS Electronic Map Generation Fund #120 to help offset a portion of the budgeted expenses of the GIS department.

Copy of Ordinance available in Auditor's Office

SHERIFF

Jeff Sherwood, Sheriff, reported:

- forty-one (41) inmates currently being housed in the Rush County jail.
- Sherwood shared his concerns of the possible increase of inmate medical costs. One inmate has \$10,000 of potential medical cost for the county to incur. Sherwood reported that he has talked to both the Prosecutor and the Public Defender as to getting the inmate out of jail.
- Sherwood also shared his concerns regarding meals appropriation due to the increase inmate volume. Sherwood will research the reimbursement costs.
- Sherwood reported that water heater issues will result in the replacement of a storage tank.
- Sherwood provided the council members with copies of the 2009 Commissary Fund Report
- Sherwood provided the 2009 Year End Report to the council members. Sherwood noted that there was an increase of \$15,102.11 over 2008
- The council will tour the Jail following their April 14th council meeting
- Sherwood invited the council members, auditor and county attorney to attend the Jail Seminar scheduled for April 29th in Plainfield
- Sherwood reported that the Sheriff Merit pension finished 2009 up by 18%. Morgan Stanley will be meeting with the Merit Board March 3rd at 6:00pm in the Assembly Room. Sherwood invited the council to attend the meeting.

E-911 WIRELESS

Jeff Sherwood, Sheriff, reported that Randy Herbert has come to him with bills to be paid out of the E-911 Wireless Fund #200. In January the council did discuss approving an additional appropriation. Deborah Adams reported that she did not record an amount nor received any further information from Herbert, but she would review her notes again. Sherwood and Herbert reported that at least \$110,000 would be needed for the expenses. Adams will advertise the additional appropriation for the council to approve during their April 14th meeting.

CORONER

The council approved the transfer of \$616.47 from #1-7-3-6 (gasoline/oil filter) into 1-7-4-1 (equipment) on a motion from John Pavey. Kevin Spilman seconded the motion. Motion carried. The transfer will complete the final lease payment on the Coroner van.

MISC.

Deborah Adams, Auditor, reminded the council of the Rush County E.C.D.C. meeting being held at the school administration building on March 2, 2010. Ginovus, an Indiana firm will help the county identify, target their industry and assets.

Motion to adjourn was initiated by Gerald Mohr. Bruce Levi seconded the motion, motion carried.

Norman Winkler, Chairman

John Pavey

Gerald Mohr

Warren Norris

Bruce Levi

Kevin Spilman

Jerry Kent

ATTEST:

Deborah C. Adams, Auditor